UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/1046
9 November 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 8 NOVEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 16 and 31 October 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations and damage caused, 16-31 October 1998

1. In the northern region 147 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Tall Kayf, Sinjar, Rawanduz, Koysanjaq, Baibo, Ayn Zalah and Badush.

2. In the southern region 710 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Shatrah, Qal'at Salih, Maymunah, Rifa'i, Kut, Mu'aniyah, Diwaniyah, Safwan, Amarah, Umm Qasr, Hamzah, Ali al-Gharbi, Abu Sukhayr, Shu'aybah, Najaf and Nu'maniyah.

3. Twelve violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 0935 hours on 15 October United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

5. At 2030 hours on 18 October United States forces intercepted the Honduran tanker Trapp Star, for which Mr. Husam Ja'far acts as agent, after it had left Mina' Khawr al-Zubayr and was near buoy 5 in the Khawr Abd Allah channel. The tanker, which was subjected to an act of piracy on the part of the United States at 1100 hours on 24 October, was taken to Kuwait by United States forces and is still there.

6. At 0015 hours on 19 October the United States frigate Carr (No. 52) began a search of the oil tanker Rayshan at a point 5 kilometres south of Mina' al-Amiq.

7. At 1230 hours on 19 October a United States helicopter intercepted the Chinese freighter Thaibing, which was carrying a cargo of rice, between buoy 7, in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway, and buoy 12. The freighter was ordered to change course or to drop anchor immediately. The pilot was then ordered to reduce speed and await orders. It should be noted that the freighter had already been searched at the international inspection point. At 1320 hours the pilot was instructed to proceed onwards.